

TOWN OF UNDERHILL ENERGY COMMITTEE
Draft Minutes
Virtual Meeting by GoTo Meeting

5:30 P.M. Wednesday Sept 9, 2020

In Attendance: Peter Bennett (PB), Dwight Decoster (DD), Ruth Julianelle (RJ), Ravi Parikh (RP), Steve Webster (SW), Nicole Bourassa (NB), Michael Oman (MO)

5:35 p.m. Called meeting to order

Review of Meeting Guidelines

- PB read outloud the Meeting guidelines – Rules of Procedure for Virtual Meeting -- pursuant to Governor Scott/state requirements for open meeting laws

Roll call of meeting participants

Adjustments to Agenda

- PB moved to make adjustments to agenda to address open meeting laws, all in favor
- Select Board (SB) is requiring all town committees to adhere to the “letter of the law” for open meeting laws, including submitting agenda, meeting being posted, submitting minutes within 5 days.
- Andrew is our committee’s point-person.
- Today’s meeting has been deemed a “special” meeting to follow guidelines

Public comment period

N/A

Review/approve minutes from Aug 12, 2020

PB asks for any changes

DD so moved, 6 approved, 1 abstained (was not present)

Updates on projects

- Button Up program
 - DD provided update: kick-off occurred last week; major difference is that there will be no in-person events: 3 points of service:
 1. “Weatherization Wednesdays” will serve to provide venue for topics/presentations
 2. Special low-income option for vermiculite insulation in partnership with EVT, planning commissions, public service board
 3. providing virtual home energy audits
 - PB asks if recordings of programs are available
 - DD says yes, posted on Button Up Facebook page; he will also setup on another platform
- Solar array

- PB reports that the array is connected and producing power
 - Still consider some kind of “celebration” up at array
 - NB asks about monitoring of the array
 - PB to check in with town staff to ensure they have info re billing/getting credits
 - SW to check in with Green Lantern about monitoring
 - DD and NB suggested getting a visual of monthly monitoring to post on website
- Town hall
 - PB reviewed memo that was sent to Town Hall Group/SB August 19th; we didn’t make a recommendation
 - Laid out the pluses/minuses of all options including GSHPs
 - We are waiting to hear from SB
 - SW thinks this last statement is important; as MO had pointed out, we are looking at 20+ years of continued fossil fuel use
 - SW asks that they know we are here if they want our help
 - PB to follow up with Town Admin.
- Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP)
 - MO provided more details to the summary he sent around
 - Expects we are in quite a transition, and possibly committing to 20+ years of fossil fuel use in the town hall; feels lots of things are going to be changing fast with Global Warming bill, etc.
 - Starting to talk about market-based solutions to global warming and this means PRICE.
 - Price structure could dramatically change; can’t/shouldn’t take an immediate action on this
 - This hasn’t been addressed adequately with a professional assessment, etc. Times are changing
 - Our Town Hall could be a model/showcase for what/how the town should be responding
 - MO repeated GA’s insistence (from previous meeting) that a professional assessment is needed
 - PB suggests we look at initial questions with a consultant and not worry about town deadlines/politics about what to do now
 - PB agrees that GA is right that a professional consultant is needed
 - MO says concern about where to get \$\$ to do this analysis
 - MO suggests LN Consulting in Burlington would be a good fit for us, and possibly may do presentation of this, as well as add Claude Chevelier’s input.
 - MO to explore asking LN Consulting to “sell us” on what kind of information they can bring to us as a consultant
 - PB to talk with Town Admin about where Town Hall Group stands on this
 - PB moves to have MO contact LN Consulting on behalf of UEC to determine their willingness to give us a preliminary overview of what they would pursue in researching GSHP system at the town hall. All approved.
- Web site
 - SW is collecting all content being sent to him; has not put up on website
 - MO offered to help; SW asked for just a few of the best ideas

- Other
 - PB asks if there are any other project updates?
 - PB asks RP about any updates on town hall lighting. RP “none at present”
 - PB asks RP if there are data-loggers through Efficiency VT (EVt); RP has shared there are some, trying to dial options in with EVt.
 - **RP to continue this discussion with EVt**

New Business

- Discussion of **Global Warming Solutions Act H688, i.e. how does it affect UEC?**
 - PB suggests this is a bigger discussion than we have time for
 - PB received info from League of Cities and Towns and can pass on to us
 - MO thinks this is a discussion we need to have as it will impact what we do
 - **PB will pull more salient points out and share, and we should discuss at next meeting.**
 - PB interested in how the Act will impact us and our work
- Other?
 - N/A

Committee operations

- Continue virtual meetings
- PB to share with SW details about how to comply with open meeting laws
- Other
- PB asks if there is anything else?
 - N/A
- Next meeting – October 14, 2020

Energy Committee Meeting Adjourned

6:38 **DD so moved, all approve**